EXHIBIT A

BUR-L-000460-20 02/24/2020 1:51:53 PM Pg 1 of 10 Trans ID: LCV2020378934

KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI

By: David N. Korsen, Esq.
Attorney ID: 165462015
By: Andrew R. Olcese, Esq.
Attorney ID: 293552019
3331 Street Road
Two Greenwood Square, Suite 128
Bensalem, PA 19020
P - (215) 639-0801
F - (215) 639-4970

MEZIANE SALAH 2269 Gettysburg Dr. Vineland, NJ 08361

Plaintiff,

٧.

VIRTUA HEALTH, INC. 20 W. Stow Rd. Mariton, NJ 08053

Defendant.

SUPERIOR COURT OF BURLINGTON COUNTY LAW DIV.

CIVIL ACTION

No.: BUR-L-000460-20

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Meziane Salah (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby avers as follows:

I. Introduction

1. Plaintiff has initiated this action to redress violations by Virtua Health, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant") of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination ("NJ LAD" - N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et. seq.). Plaintiff asserts herein inter alia that Defendant violated the NJ LAD and as a result, he has suffered damages outlined herein.

¹ Plaintiff has filed claims of disability discrimination, retaliation and failure to accommodate with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") under the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended ("ADA" - 42 USC §§ 12101 et seq.). Plaintiff intends to amend the instance Civil Action Complaint to include such claims under the ADA once they have been administratively exhausted with the EEOC and the EEOC issues a right-to-sue letter. Plaintiff's claims under the ADA will however mirror his NJ LAD claims asserted herein.

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II. Parties

- 2. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein their entirety as if set forth in full.
 - 3. Plaintiff is an adult who resides at the above-captioned address.
- 4. Defendant is a non-profit healthcare system in southern New Jersey that operates a network of hospitals, surgery centers, physician practices, fitness centers, and more. Plaintiff physically worked at Defendant's office location in Marlton, NJ.
- 5. At all times relevant herein, Defendant acted by and through its agents, servants and employees, each of whom acted at all times relevant herein in the course and scope of their employment with and for Defendant.

III. Factual Background

- 6. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 7. Plaintiff was hired to work for Defendant on or about August 28, 2019 as an internal auditor at its 20 W. Stow Rd., Marlton, NJ location.
- 8. At all times during his employment with Defendant, Plaintiff was supervised by Bhumika Kundu (hereinafter "Kundu"), Director of Internal Audit.
- 9. Plaintiff has and continues to suffer from mental health conditions, including but not limited to Major Depressive Disorder and Anxiety.
- 10. Plaintiff's aforesaid health conditions, at times, limits his ability to engage in some daily life activities, including but not limited to focusing, sleeping, engaging in social interaction, and working.

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- 11. On or about September 25, 2019, Plaintiff requested accommodations for his health conditions from Defendant's Employee and Labor Relations Consultant, Judy Morris (hereinafter "Morris"). Specifically, Plaintiff gave Morris a list of 8 medical accommodations that Plaintiff thought would help him perform his job in light of his health conditions.
- 12. Some of the aforesaid medical accommodations that Plaintiff requested/suggested included but were not limited to:
 - a. The ability to come into work late or leave early in order to attend medical appointments without having his absence from work negatively counted against him;
 - The ability to take intermittent medical leave to care for and treat for his health conditions, without having such absences negatively counted against him;
 - c. The ability to work from home, as needed, when he suffers from a flare up of his health condition;
 - d. The ability to report to work late, on occasion, as a result of his prescribed medication, which had the tendency to make Plaintiff drowsy; and
 - e. The ability to have assigned tasks/duties written out for him in step-bystep instructions so that he could better follow directions in order to complete his tasks.
- 13. In response to Plaintiff's aforesaid suggested accommodations, Morris informed Plaintiff that he needed to provide Defendant with a doctor's note confirming his disabilities and need for accommodations.

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- 14. Plaintiff provided the requested doctor's note (discussed *supra*) to Morris on October 18, 2019.
- 15. In the aforesaid doctor's note presented to Morris on October 18, 2019, Plaintiff's doctor confirmed Plaintiff's disabilities, symptoms, medications, and need for accommodations.
- 16. Specifically, Plaintiff's doctor explained that Plaintiff had been diagnosed and was treating for Major Depressive Disorder and Anxiety and that his symptoms may include (among other things listed in the doctor's note): feelings of sadness, emptiness, or hopelessness; sobbing fits; sleep disturbances, including insomnia or sleeping too much; slowed thinking/reasoning; trouble concentrating; and trouble remembering things.
- 17. Plaintiff's doctor further indicated in his aforesaid note (provided to Morris on October 18, 2019) that he supported the accommodations that had been suggested and set forth by Plaintiff in his e-mail to Morris on September 25, 2019 (discussed *supra*).
- 18. After presenting Morris with his doctor's October 18, 2019 note, Plaintiff was scheduled to meet with Morris and Kundu on October 30, 2019 to further discuss his suggested accommodations.
- 19. During his October 30, 2019 meeting with Kundu and Morris, Plaintiff informed both of them that he did not expect Defendant to grant all of his accommodation requests/suggestions but wanted to engage in the interactive process with them to see what could be done to accommodate his health conditions so he could better perform his job.
- 20. During his October 30, 2019 meeting with Defendant's management, Kundu and Morris indicated what accommodations they could provide Plaintiff and what accommodation requests they were denying him.

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- 21. For some of the accommodation requests that were denied, Plaintiff was instructed by Morris and Kundu to have a conversation with his doctor (about the accommodation requests that could not be granted) and determine if further engagement in the interactive process was needed.
- 22. Because the aforesaid October 30, 2019 meeting was a discussion focused around Plaintiff's health conditions and why he needed accommodations, Plaintiff became emotionally upset during the meeting and began to have a flare up of his mental health conditions, to the point that he broke down crying in front of Morris and Kundu.
- 23. As Plaintiff was experiencing a flare-up of his mental health conditions (discussed in Paragraph 22 of this Complaint), Morris really began to indicate that she did not believe the job Plaintiff was in currently was a good fit and suggested that he go on disability or take 30 days to look for another job within Virtua. Plaintiff did not accept either of those options.
- 24. Plaintiff was told during the October 30, 2019 meeting that his job was not at stake and at the end of the meeting; Morris indicated that she would touch base with Plaintiff the next week to discuss all potential options. Plaintiff was further told by Morris that if he needed to take the next day off, he could.
- 25. Plaintiff left work immediately after the October 30, 2019 meeting and called off the next day because of his mental health conditions.
- 26. On or about October 31st, while Plaintiff was at home treating for his mental health conditions, he received a call from Kundu and Morris stating that "after yesterday's conversation," they did not feel as if Plaintiff could work in the role for which he was hired. Kundu and Morris further stated during this telephone call that Defendant would pay Plaintiff for

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Thursday and Friday, but starting Monday, November 4th, he would be placed on an unpaid (involuntary) leave and given 30 days to find a new position within Defendant.

- 27. Over the next 30 days, Plaintiff looked for an alternative position within Defendant but was unable to find one.
- 28. Thus, on or about December 4, 2019, Plaintiff was terminated from his employment with Defendant.
- 29. Defendant therefore terminated Plaintiff's employment without allowing him to try and work with the accommodations that were provided (discussed *supra*) or without giving him the opportunity speak with his doctor about the accommodations that Defendant agreed to provide and/or denied in order to see if further engagement in the interactive process was needed.
- 30. Instead, Plaintiff was abruptly placed on unpaid administrative leave and then ultimately terminated because Defendant's management did not believe he could perform in the position he had been hired for due to his health conditions.
- 31. Plaintiff believes and therefore avers that he was terminated because of his actual/perceived/record of disabilities, in retaliation for requesting reasonable accommodations, and/or as a direct result of Defendant's failure to engage in the interactive process and accommodate his health conditions.

Count I

<u>Violations of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination ("NJ LAD")</u> ([1] Actual/Perceived/Record of Disability Discrimination; [2] Retaliation; [3] Failure to Accommodate)

- 32. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 33. Plaintiff suffered from qualifying health conditions under the NJ LAD which affected his ability (at times) to perform some daily life activities discussed *supra*.

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- 34. In or about September of 2019, Plaintiff approached Morris with reasonable accommodation suggestions that he thought may better help him perform his job in light of his health conditions and in October of 2019, Plaintiff presented Morris with a doctor's note supporting same.
- 35. In a meeting with Morris and Kundu on October 30, 2019, which was held to discuss his suggested reasonable accommodations, Plaintiff broke down crying and in response, Morris began to suggest that Plaintiff may not be fit for his job and proposed that he go on disability or take 30 days to look for another job within Defendant.
- 36. While Plaintiff was assured that his job was not at stake during the aforesaid October 30, 2019 meeting and was informed by Morris that she would call him the next week to discuss all of his options, Plaintiff was instead contacted by Morris and Kundu on October 31, 2019 and told that (1) "after yesterday's conversation," they did not feel as if Plaintiff could work in the role that he was hired for; and (2) as of November 4, 2019, Defendant was placing him on unpaid administrative leave and giving him 30 days to find a new position within Defendant.
- 37. While Plaintiff looked for a different job within Defendant between November 4, 2019 and December 4, 2019, he was not able to find one and was ultimately terminated from his employment with Defendant effective December 4, 2019.
- 38. Therefore, Plaintiff believes and avers that was taken out of his position, placed on unpaid administrative leave, and ultimately terminated from his employment with Defendant because of: (1) his known and/or perceived health problems; (2) his record of impairment; (3) his requested accommodations; and/or (4) Defendant's failure to properly engage in the interactive process and/or accommodate Plaintiff.

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39. These actions, discussed supra, constitute violations of the NJ LAD.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court enter an Order providing that:

- A. Defendant is to be prohibited from continuing to maintain its illegal policy, practice or custom of discriminating/retaliating against employees and is to be ordered to promulgate an effective policy against such unlawful acts and to adhere thereto;
- B. Defendant is to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff and make Plaintiff whole for any and all pay and benefits Plaintiff would have received had it not been for Defendant's illegal actions, including but not limited to past lost earnings, future lost earnings, salary, pay increases, bonuses, medical and other benefits, training, promotions, pension, seniority, and reinstatement. Plaintiff should be accorded those benefits illegally withheld from the date he first suffered retaliation/discrimination at the hands of Defendant until the date of verdict.
- C. Plaintiff is to be awarded punitive damages, as permitted by applicable law, in an amount determined by the Court or trier of fact to be appropriate to punish Defendant for its willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous conduct and to deter Defendant or other employers from engaging in such misconduct in the future;
- D. Plaintiff is to be accorded any and all other equitable and legal relief as the Court deems just, proper and appropriate, including but not limited to, emotional distress and/or pain and suffering damages (where legally permitted);
- E. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and reasonable legal fees as provided by applicable federal and state law;
- F. Any verdict in favor of Plaintiff is to be molded by the Court to maximize the financial recovery available to the Plaintiff in light of the caps on certain damages set forth in applicable federal law; and

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G. Plaintiff's claims are to receive trial by jury to the extent allowed by applicable law. Plaintiff has also endorsed this demand on the caption of this Complaint in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Respectfully submitted,

KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, P.C.

By:

pavid N. Korsen, Esq.

3331 Street Road

Two Greenwood Square, Suite 128

Bensalem, PA 19020

(215) 639-0801

Dated: February 24, 2020

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JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

KARPF, KARPF, & CERUTTI, P.C.

By:

RULE 4:5-1 CERTIFICATION

- I. I am licensed to practice law in New Jersey, and I am responsible for the above-captioned matter.
- 2. I am aware of no other matter currently filed or pending in any court in any jurisdiction which may affect the parties or matters described herein.

KARPF, KARPF, & CERUTTI, P.C.

By:

David N. Korsen, Esq.

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

David N. Korsen, Esquire, of the law firm of Karpf, & Cerutti, is hereby designated trial counsel.

KARPF, KARPF, & CERUTTI, P.C.

By:

David N. Korsen, Esq.

Case 1:20-cv-04293-NLH-AMD Document 1-1 Filed 04/15/20 Page 12 of 38 PageID: 17

BUR L 000460-20 02/25/2020 5:16:43 AM Pg 1 of 1 Trans ID: LCV2020383839

BURLINGTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 49 RANCOCAS ROAD

MT HOLLY

NJ 08060

TRACK ASSIGNMENT NOTICE

COURT TELEPHONE NO. (609) 288-9500 COURT HOURS 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2020

RE: SALAH MEZIANE VS VIRTUA HEALTH, INC.

DOCKET: BUR L -000460 20

THE ABOVE CASE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO: TRACK 3.

DISCOVERY IS 450 DAYS AND RUNS FROM THE FIRST ANSWER OR 90 DAYS FROM SERVICE ON THE FIRST DEFENDANT, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

THE PRETRIAL JUDGE ASSIGNED IS: HON SUSAN L. CLAYPOOLE

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT TEAM 003 AT: (609) 288-9500.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THE TRACK IS INAPPROPRIATE YOU MUST FILE A CERTIFICATION OF GOOD CAUSE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE FILING OF YOUR PLEADING.
PLAINTIFF MUST SERVE COPIES OF THIS FORM ON ALL OTHER PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.4:5A-2.

ATTENTION:

ATT: DAVID N. KORSEN
KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, PC
3331 STREET RD
TWO GREENWOOD SQUARE STE 128
BENSALEM PA 19020

ECOURTS

BUR-L-000460-20 02/24/2020 1:51:53 PM Pq 1 of 2 Trans ID: LCV2020378934

Civil Case Information Statement

Case Details: BURLINGTON | Civil Part Docket# L-000460-20

Case Caption: SALAH MEZIANE VS VIRTUA HEALTH,

Case Initiation Date: 02/24/2020

Attorney Name: DAVID NATHANIEL KORSEN Firm Name: KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, PC

Address: 3331 STREET RD TWO GREENWOOD SQUARE

STE 128

BENSALEM PA 19020 Phone: 2156390801

Name of Party: PLAINTIFF: SALAH, MEZIANE Name of Defendant's Primary Insurance Company

(if known): Unknown

Case Type: LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION (LAD) CASES

Document Type: Complaint with Jury Demand

Jury Demand: YES - 12 JURORS

Is this a professional malpractice case? NO

Related cases pending: NO If yes, list docket numbers:

Do you anticipate adding any parties (arising out of same

transaction or occurrence)? NO Are sexual abuse claims alleged? NO

THE NEORMATION EROXIDED ON THIS FORM CANNOT BE INTRODUCED INTO EXIDENC CASE CHARACTERISTICS FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING IF CASE IS APPROPRIATE FOR MEDIATION

Do parties have a current, past, or recurrent relationship? YES

If yes, is that relationship: Employer/Employee

Does the statute governing this case provide for payment of fees by the losing party? YES

Use this space to alert the court to any special case characteristics that may warrant individual management or accelerated disposition:

Do you or your client need any disability accommodations? NO If yes, please identify the requested accommodation:

Will an interpreter be needed? NO If yes, for what language:

Please check off each applicable category: Putative Class Action? NO Title 59? NO Consumer Fraud? NO

I certify that confidential personal identifiers have been redacted from documents now submitted to the court, and will be redacted from all documents submitted in the future in accordance with Rule 1:38-7(b)

02/24/2020 Dated

/s/ DAVID NATHANIEL KORSEN

Case 1:20-cv-04293-NLH-AMD Document 1-1 Filed 04/15/20 Page 14 of 38 PageID: 19

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EXHIBIT B

Su	MMONS	FEB 2 6 2
Attorney(s) Karpf, Karpf & Cerutti, P.C.	Superior Court	can
Office Address 3331 Street Road	Superior Court	QI.C.
Town, State, Zip Code Two Greenwood Square, St		
Bensalem, PA 19020	Burlington	COUNTY
Telephone Number (215) 639-0801	Civil	DIVISION
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff David N. Korsen, Esq.	Docket No: <u>BUR-L-000460-</u>	20
Meziane Salah		
Plaintiff(s)	CIVIL ACTIO	N
Vs.	SUMMONS	
Virtua Health, Inc.		
Defendant(s)		
From The State of New Jersey To The Defendant(s) Named	Above:	
answer or motion and proof of service with the deputy clerk from the date you received this summons, not counting the clerk of the Superior Court is available in the Civil Division http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/pro.se/10153 deptyclerklaw file your written answer or motion and proof of service with Box 971, Trenton, NJ 08625-0971. A filling fee payable to Information Statement (available from the deputy clerk of the it is filed. You must also send a copy of your answer or mot or to plaintiff, if no attorney is named above. A telephone can answer or motion (with fee of \$135.00 and completed Case defense.	date you received it. (A directory of the addressed Management Office in the county listed above a pref.pdf.) If the complaint is one in foreclosure, the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice the Treasurer, State of New Jersey and a complete Superior Court) must accompany your answer tion to plaintiffs attorney whose name and addressed will will not protect your rights; you must file and	es of each deputy and online at then you must complex, P.O. eted Case r or motion when ess appear above serve a written
If you do not file and serve a written answer or motion the relief plaintiff demands, plus interest and costs of suit. I money, wages or property to pay all or part of the judgment.	f judgment is entered against you, the Sheriff ma	igainst you for ay seize your
If you cannot afford an attorney, you may call the Legal Services of New Jersey Statewide Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-L. not eligible for free legal assistance, you may obtain a referr A directory with contact information for local Legal Service Division Management Office in the county listed above and http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/prose/10153 deptyclerklaw.	AW (1-888-576-5529). If you do not have an at al to an attorney by calling one of the Lawyer R s Offices and Lawyer Referral Services is availa online at	torney and are eferral Services.
	/s/ Michelle M. Smith	
	Clerk of the Superior Court	_
DATED: <u>2/25/2020</u>		
Name of Defendant to Be Served: Virtua Health, Inc		
Address of Defendant to Be Served: 20 W. Stow Ros	ad, Marlton, NJ 08053	

Directory of Superior Court Deputy Clerk's Offices County Lawyer Referral and Legal Services Offices

ATLANTIC COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division, Direct Filing 1201 Bacharach Blvd., First Fl. Atlantic City, NJ 08401 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 345-3444 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 348-4200

BERGEN COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division, Room 115 Justice Center, 10 Main St. Hackensack, NJ 07601 LAWYER REFERRAL (201) 488-0044 LEGAL SERVICES (201) 487-2166

BURLINGTON COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Central Processing Office Attn: Judicial Intake First Fl., Courts Facility 49 Rancocas Rd. Mt. Holly, NJ 08060 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 261-4862 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 261-1088

CAMDEN COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Processing Office Hall of Justice 1st Fl., Suite 150 101 South 5th Street Camden, NJ 08103 LAWYER REFERRAL (856) 482-0618 LEGAL SERVICES (856) 964-2010

CAPE MAY COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 9 N. Main Street Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 463-0313 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 465-3001

CUMBERLAND COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Case Management Office 60 West Broad Street P.O. Box 10 Bridgeton, NJ 08302 LAWYER REFERRAL (856) 696-5550 LEGAL SERVICES (856) 691-0494

ESSEX COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Customer Service Hall of Records, Room 201 465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102 LAWYER REFERRAL (973) 622-6204 LEGAL SERVICES (973) 624-4500

GLOUCESTER COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Case Management Office Attn: Intake First Fl., Court House 1 North Broad Street Woodbury, NJ 08096 LAWYER REFERRAL (856) 848-4589 LEGAL SERVICES (856) 848-5360

HUDSON COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Superior Court, Civil Records Dept. Brennan Court House-1st Floor 583 Newark Ave. Jersey City, NJ 07306 LAWYER REFERRAL (201) 798-2727 LEGAL SERVICES (201) 792-6363

HUNTERDON COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division 65 Park Avenue Flemington, NJ 08822 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 236-6109 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 782-7979

MERCER COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Local Filing Office, Courthouse 175 S. Broad Street, P.O. Box 8068 Trenton, NJ 08650 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 585-6200 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 695-6249

MIDDLESEX COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court, Middlesex Vicinage 2nd Floor - Tower 56 Paterson Street, P.O. Box 2633 New Brunswick, NJ 08903-2633 LAWYER REFERRAL (732) 828-0053 LEGAL SERVICES (732) 249-7600

MONMOUTH COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Court House P.O. Box 1269 Freehold, NJ 07728-1269 LAWYER REFERRAL (732) 431-5544 LEGAL SERVICES (732) 866-0020

MORRIS COUNTY:

Morris County Courthouse Civil Division Washington and Court Streets P. O. Box 910 Morristown, NJ 07963-0910 LAWYER REFERRAL (973) 267-5882 LEGAL SERVICES (973) 285-6911

OCEAN COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 118 Washington Street, Room 121 P.O. Box 2191 Toms River, NJ 08754-2191 LAWYER REFERRAL (732) 240-3666 LEGAL SERVICES (732) 341-2727

PASSAIC COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division Court House 77 Hamilton Street Paterson, NJ 07505 LAWYER REFERRAL (973) 278-9223 LEGAL SERVICES (973) 523-2900

SALEM COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Attn: Civil Case Management Office 92 Market Street Salem, NJ 08079 LAWYER REFERRAL (856) 935-5629 LEGAL SERVICES (856) 691-0494

SOMERSET COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division P.O. Box 3000 40 North Bridge Street Somerville, N.J. 08876 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 685-2323 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 231-0840

SUSSEX COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Sussex County Judicial Center 43-47 High Street Newton, NJ 07860 LAWYER REFERRAL (973) 267-5882 LEGAL SERVICES (973) 383-7400

UNION COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 1st Fl., Court House 2 Broad Street Elizabeth, NJ 07207-6073 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 353-4715 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 354-4340

WARREN COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division Office Court House 413 Second Street Belvidere, NJ 07823-1500 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 859-4300 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 475-2010

BUR-L-000460-20 03/11/2020 10:25:35 AM Pg 1 of 2 Trans ID: LCV2020496583 Case 1:20-cv-04293-NLH-AMD Document 1-1 Filed 04/15/20 Page 20 of 38 PageID: 25

		vs.								rior Court of e: SUPERIC		-	RSEY BUI	RLINGTON
VIRTUA HEALTH	H, INC.				Defendant					COUNTY et Number:	′			
	Person to be Served (Name & Address): VIRTUA HEALTH, INC. 303 LIPPINCOTT DR, MARLTON, NJ 08053							AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE (For use by Private Service)						
	Attor KARPF	n ey: , Karpf & Ce	ERUTTI,	P.C.	·			Cost of Service pursuant to R. 4:4-3(c)						
	KRISTIN STIPA TWO GREENWOOD SQUARE 3331 STREET RD SUITE 128 BENSALEM, PA 19020						28							
	CIVIL A						E, CIVIL CASE I ATION OF TRIA							L ACTION
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· .	Descr	iption of F	Person	Accept	ing Service	e:								
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<u>2</u>	JU Notary	bed and Sw day of Signature		Mil Ms	my zol	Jul		having	a direct	as at the tin t interest in he foregoing	the litigat	tion. I decl		ult and not or penalty of 02/26/2020

Dan Stein, 421 N 7TH ST SUITE 422, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123, 866-331-4220 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

NOTARIAL SEAL CHRISTINA GRIEB, Notary Public City of Philadelphia, Phila. County My Commission Expires June 1, 2021

Affidavit of Service (9/30/2002)

page 1 of 1

Revised 9/30/2002, CN 10516-English

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Notary Signature Cushmil Name of Notary, commission expiration.

Dan Sten

02/26/2020

Dan Stein, 421 N 7TH ST SUITE 422, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123, 866-331-4220

Affidavit of Service (9/30/2002)

Revised 9/30/2002, CN 10516-English

page 1 of 1

COMMONWEALTH OF FEDERAL VALID

NOTARIAL SEAL CHRISTINA GRIEB, Notary Public City of Philadelphia, Phila. County My Commission Expires June 1, 2021

EXHIBIT C

BUR-L-000460-20 03/27/2020 4:35:53 PM Pg 1 of 1 Trans ID: LCV2020615063 Case 1:20-cv-04293-NLH-AMD Document 1-1 Filed 04/15/20 Page 23 of 38 PageID: 28

MEZIANE SALAI	⊣ vs.	Р	laintiff				Court of			RSEY BURLINGTON	
VIRTUA HEALTH		D	efendant				COUNTY	1	-000460-20	KSEY BURLING(ON	
•	Person to be Serve VIRTUA HEALTH, INC. 303 LIPPINCOTT DR, N				AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE (For use by Private Service)						
	Attorney: KARPF, KARPF & CERU' BREANNA WHERRITY TWO GREENWOOD SO BENSALEM, PA 19020 Papers Served:	QUARE 3331 ST					·		: to R. 4:4-3(c)		
	CIVIL ACTION SUMMO OF TRIAL COUNSEL (R	NS, AMENDED eceived Mar 18	CIVIL ACTION CO 3, 2020 at 10:01a	OMPLAINT, JUR' am EDT)	Y TRIAL I	DEMAND	ED, RULE	4:5-1 C	ERTIFICATION	AND DESIGNATION	
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Revised 9/30/2002, CN 10516-English

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

NOTARIAL SEAL CHRISTINA GRIEB, Notary Public City of Philadelphia, Phila. County My Commission Expires June 1, 2021 page 1 of 1



KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



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Bensalem, PA 19020
Tel: (215) 639-0801
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dkorsen@karpf-law.com

March 17, 2020

SENT VIA PROCESS SERVER

Virtua Health, Inc. 303 Lippincott Drive Marlton, NJ 0853

Re:

Meziane Salah v. Virtua Health, Inc.

Case No.: BUR-L-000460-20

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find Plaintiff's First Amended Civil Action Complaint which was filed in the above reference matter on March 17, 2020.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, P.C.

/s/ David N. Korsen

David N. Korsen, Esq.

Encl.

SUMMONS	}				
Attorney(s) Karpf, Karpf & Cerutti, P.C.	Carabian Can	ret of			
Office Address 3331 Street Road	Superior Cou				
Town, State, Zip Code Two Greenwood Square, Suite 128	New Jerse	\mathbf{y}			
Bensalem, PA 19020	Burlington	COUNTY			
Telephone Number (215) 639-0801	Civil	DIVISION			
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff David N. Korsen, Esq.	Docket No: BUR-L-000460-20				
Meziane Salah					
Plaintiff(s)	CIVIL ACTI	ION			
Vs.		-			
Virtua Health, Inc.	SUMMON	D .			
Defendant(s)					
From The State of New Jersey To The Defendant(s) Named Above:					
to this summons states the basis for this lawsuit. If you dispute this coanswer or motion and proof of service with the deputy clerk of the Supfrom the date you received this summons, not counting the date you received of the Superior Court is available in the Civil Division Managements://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/pro se/10153 deptyclerklawref.pdf.) If file your written answer or motion and proof of service with the Clerk Box 971, Trenton, NJ 08625-0971. A filing fee payable to the Treasur Information Statement (available from the deputy clerk of the Superior it is filed. You must also send a copy of your answer or motion to plain or to plaintiff, if no attorney is named above. A telephone call will not answer or motion (with fee of \$135.00 and completed Case Information defense.	perior Court in the county listed abording the ceived it. (A directory of the additional cent Office in the county listed abording the complaint is one in foreclose of the Superior Court, Hughes Juster, State of New Jersey and a core Court) must accompany your ansintiffs attorney whose name and a protect your rights; you must file	resses of each deputy ove and online at ure, then you must stice Complex, P.O. npleted Case swer or motion when ddress appear above, and serve a written			
If you do not file and serve a written answer or motion within 35 d the relief plaintiff demands, plus interest and costs of suit. If judgment money, wages or property to pay all or part of the judgment.					
If you cannot afford an attorney, you may call the Legal Services of Services of New Jersey Statewide Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888 not eligible for free legal assistance, you may obtain a referral to an att. A directory with contact information for local Legal Services Offices a Division Management Office in the county listed above and online at http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/prose/10153 deptyclerklawref.pdf.	3-576-5529). If you do not have a corney by calling one of the Lawye	n attorney and are er Referral Services.			
/s/ I	Michelle M. Smith				
	Clerk of the Superior Court				
DATED: 3/17/2020 Name of Defendant to Be Served: Virtua Health, Inc. Address of Defendant to Be Served: 303 Lippincott Drive Mark	ton NI 08052				

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2nd Floor - Tower

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New Brunswick, NJ 08903-2633

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Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Court House

P.O. Box 1269

Freehold, NJ 07728-1269

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Morris County Courthouse

Civil Division

Washington and Court Streets

P.O. Box 910

Morristown, NJ 07963-0910

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Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court

118 Washington Street, Room 121

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Toms River, NJ 08754-2191

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(856) 848-5360

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(201) 798-2727

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LEGAL SERVICES

(908) 782-7979

LAWYER REFERRAL

(609) 585-6200

LEGAL SERVICES

(609) 695-6249

LAWYER REFERRAL

(732) 828-0053

LEGAL SERVICES

(732) 249-7600

LAWYER REFERRAL

(732) 431-5544

LEGAL SERVICES

(732) 866-0020

LAWYER REFERRAL

(973) 267-5882

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(973) 285-6911

LAWYER REFERRAL

(732) 240-3666

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KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI

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MEZIANE SALAH

2269 Gettysburg Dr.

F - (215) 639-4970

Vineland, NJ 08361

Plaintiff,

v.

VIRTUA HEALTH, INC.

20 W. Stow Rd. Marlton, NJ 08053

Defendant.

SUPERIOR COURT OF

BURLINGTON COUNTY LAW DIV.

CIVIL ACTION

No.: BUR-L-000460-20

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

FIRST AMENDED CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Meziane Salah (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby avers as follows:

I. Introduction

1. Plaintiff has initiated this action to redress violations by Virtua Health, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant") of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination ("NJ LAD" - N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et. seq.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended ("ADA" - 42 USC §§ 12101 et. seq.). Plaintiff asserts herein inter alia that Defendant violated the NJ LAD and ADA, and as a result, he has suffered damages outlined herein.

II. Parties/Jurisdiction

- 2. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein their entirety as if set forth in full.
 - 3. Plaintiff is an adult who resides at the above-captioned address.
- 4. Defendant is a non-profit healthcare system in southern New Jersey that operates a network of hospitals, surgery centers, physician practices, fitness centers, and more. Plaintiff physically worked at Defendant's office location in Marlton, NJ.
- 5. At all times relevant herein, Defendant acted by and through its agents, servants and employees, each of whom acted at all times relevant herein in the course and scope of their employment with and for Defendant.
- 6. Plaintiff is proceeding herein after properly exhausting all administrative remedies with respect to his ADA claims by timely filing a Charge of Discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") and by filing the instant lawsuit within ninety ("90") days of receiving a notice of dismissal and/or right-to-sue letter from the EEOC.

III. Factual Background

- 7. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 8. Plaintiff was hired to work for Defendant on or about August 28, 2019 as an internal auditor at its 20 W. Stow Rd., Marlton, NJ location.
- 9. At all times during his employment with Defendant, Plaintiff was supervised by Bhumika Kundu (hereinafter "Kundu"), Director of Internal Audit.
- 10. Plaintiff has and continues to suffer from mental health conditions, including but not limited to Major Depressive Disorder and Anxiety.

- 11. Plaintiff's aforesaid health conditions, at times, limits his ability to engage in some daily life activities, including but not limited to focusing, sleeping, engaging in social interaction, and working.
- 12. On or about September 25, 2019, Plaintiff requested accommodations for his health conditions from Defendant's Employee and Labor Relations Consultant, Judy Morris (hereinafter "Morris"). Specifically, Plaintiff gave Morris a list of 8 medical accommodations that Plaintiff thought would help him perform his job in light of his health conditions.
- 13. Some of the aforesaid medical accommodations that Plaintiff requested/suggested included but were not limited to:
 - a. The ability to come into work late or leave early in order to attend medical appointments without having his absence from work negatively counted against him;
 - The ability to take intermittent medical leave to care for and treat for his health conditions, without having such absences negatively counted against him;
 - The ability to work from home, as needed, when he suffers from a flare up
 of his health condition;
 - d. The ability to report to work late, on occasion, as a result of his prescribed medication, which had the tendency to make Plaintiff drowsy; and
 - e. The ability to have assigned tasks/duties written out for him in step-bystep instructions so that he could better follow directions in order to complete his tasks.

- 14. In response to Plaintiff's aforesaid suggested accommodations, Morris informed Plaintiff that he needed to provide Defendant with a doctor's note confirming his disabilities and need for accommodations.
- 15. Plaintiff provided the requested doctor's note (discussed *supra*) to Morris on October 18, 2019.
- 16. In the aforesaid doctor's note presented to Morris on October 18, 2019, Plaintiff's doctor confirmed Plaintiff's disabilities, symptoms, medications, and need for accommodations.
- 17. Specifically, Plaintiff's doctor explained that Plaintiff had been diagnosed and was treating for Major Depressive Disorder and Anxiety and that his symptoms <u>may</u> include (among other things listed in the doctor's note): feelings of sadness, emptiness, or hopelessness; sobbing fits; sleep disturbances, including insomnia or sleeping too much; slowed thinking/reasoning; trouble concentrating; and trouble remembering things.
- 18. Plaintiff's doctor further indicated in his aforesaid note (provided to Morris on October 18, 2019) that he supported the accommodations that had been suggested and set forth by Plaintiff in his e-mail to Morris on September 25, 2019 (discussed *supra*).
- 19. After presenting Morris with his doctor's October 18, 2019 note, Plaintiff was scheduled to meet with Morris and Kundu on October 30, 2019 to further discuss his suggested accommodations.
- 20. During his October 30, 2019 meeting with Kundu and Morris, Plaintiff informed both of them that he did not expect Defendant to grant all of his accommodation requests/suggestions but wanted to engage in the interactive process with them to see what could be done to accommodate his health conditions so he could better perform his job.

- 21. During his October 30, 2019 meeting with Defendant's management, Kundu and Morris indicated what accommodations they could provide Plaintiff and what accommodation requests they were denying him.
- 22. For some of the accommodation requests that were denied, Plaintiff was instructed by Morris and Kundu to have a conversation with his doctor (about the accommodation requests that could not be granted) and determine if further engagement in the interactive process was needed.
- 23. Because the aforesaid October 30, 2019 meeting was a discussion focused around Plaintiff's health conditions and why he needed accommodations, Plaintiff became emotionally upset during the meeting and began to have a flare up of his mental health conditions, to the point that he broke down crying in front of Morris and Kundu.
- 24. As Plaintiff was experiencing a flare-up of his mental health conditions (discussed in Paragraph 22 of this Complaint), Morris really began to indicate that she did not believe the job Plaintiff was in currently was a good fit and suggested that he go on disability or take 30 days to look for another job within Virtua. Plaintiff did not accept either of those options.
- 25. Plaintiff was told during the October 30, 2019 meeting that his job was not at stake and at the end of the meeting; Morris indicated that she would touch base with Plaintiff the next week to discuss all potential options. Plaintiff was further told by Morris that if he needed to take the next day off, he could.
- 26. Plaintiff left work immediately after the October 30, 2019 meeting and called off the next day because of his mental health conditions.
- 27. On or about October 31st, while Plaintiff was at home treating for his mental health conditions, he received a call from Kundu and Morris stating that "after yesterday's

conversation," they did not feel as if Plaintiff could work in the role for which he was hired. Kundu and Morris further stated during this telephone call that Defendant would pay Plaintiff for Thursday and Friday, but starting Monday, November 4th, he would be placed on an unpaid (involuntary) leave and given 30 days to find a new position within Defendant.

- 28. Over the next 30 days, Plaintiff looked for an alternative position within Defendant but was unable to find one.
- 29. Thus, on or about December 4, 2019, Plaintiff was terminated from his employment with Defendant.
- 30. Defendant therefore terminated Plaintiff's employment without allowing him to try and work with the accommodations that were provided (discussed *supra*) or without giving him the opportunity speak with his doctor about the accommodations that Defendant agreed to provide and/or denied in order to see if further engagement in the interactive process was needed.
- 31. Instead, Plaintiff was abruptly placed on unpaid administrative leave and then ultimately terminated because Defendant's management did not believe he could perform in the position he had been hired for due to his health conditions.
- 32. Plaintiff believes and therefore avers that he was terminated because of his actual/perceived/record of disabilities, in retaliation for requesting reasonable accommodations, and/or as a direct result of Defendant's failure to engage in the interactive process and accommodate his health conditions.

Count I

<u>Violations of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination ("NJ LAD")</u> ([1] Actual/Perceived/Record of Disability Discrimination; [2] Retaliation; [3] Failure to Accommodate)

33. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.

- 34. Plaintiff suffered from qualifying health conditions under the NJ LAD which affected his ability (at times) to perform some daily life activities discussed *supra*.
- 35. In or about September of 2019, Plaintiff approached Morris with reasonable accommodation suggestions that he thought may better help him perform his job in light of his health conditions and in October of 2019, Plaintiff presented Morris with a doctor's note supporting same.
- 36. In a meeting with Morris and Kundu on October 30, 2019, which was held to discuss his suggested reasonable accommodations, Plaintiff broke down crying and in response, Morris began to suggest that Plaintiff may not be fit for his job and proposed that he go on disability or take 30 days to look for another job within Defendant.
- October 30, 2019 meeting and was informed by Morris that she would call him the next week to discuss all of his options, Plaintiff was instead contacted by Morris and Kundu on October 31, 2019 and told that (1) "after yesterday's conversation," they did not feel as if Plaintiff could work in the role that he was hired for; and (2) as of November 4, 2019, Defendant was placing him on unpaid administrative leave and giving him 30 days to find a new position within Defendant.
- 38. While Plaintiff looked for a different job within Defendant between November 4, 2019 and December 4, 2019, he was not able to find one and was ultimately terminated from his employment with Defendant effective December 4, 2019.
- 39. Therefore, Plaintiff believes and avers that was taken out of his position, placed on unpaid administrative leave, and ultimately terminated from his employment with Defendant because of: (1) his known and/or perceived health problems; (2) his record of impairment; (3) his

requested accommodations; and/or (4) Defendant's failure to properly engage in the interactive process and/or accommodate Plaintiff.

40. These actions, discussed *supra*, constitute violations of the NJ LAD.

COUNT II

<u>Violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as Amended ("ADA")</u> ([1] Actual/Perceived/Record of Disability Discrimination; [2] Retaliation; [3] Failure to Accommodate)

- 41. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 42. Plaintiff reasserts each and every allegation from Count I of this First Amended Complaint, as such constitute identical violations of the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court enter an Order providing that:

- A. Defendant is to be prohibited from continuing to maintain its illegal policy, practice or custom of discriminating/retaliating against employees and is to be ordered to promulgate an effective policy against such unlawful acts and to adhere thereto;
- B. Defendant is to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff and make Plaintiff whole for any and all pay and benefits Plaintiff would have received had it not been for Defendant's illegal actions, including but not limited to past lost earnings, future lost earnings, salary, pay increases, bonuses, medical and other benefits, training, promotions, pension, seniority, and reinstatement. Plaintiff should be accorded those benefits illegally withheld from the date he first suffered retaliation/discrimination at the hands of Defendant until the date of verdict.
- C. Plaintiff is to be awarded punitive damages, as permitted by applicable law, in an amount determined by the Court or trier of fact to be appropriate to punish Defendant for its willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous conduct and to deter Defendant or other employers from engaging in such misconduct in the future;

D. Plaintiff is to be accorded any and all other equitable and legal relief as the Court

deems just, proper and appropriate, including but not limited to, emotional distress and/or pain

and suffering damages (where legally permitted);

E. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and reasonable

legal fees as provided by applicable federal and state law;

F. Any verdict in favor of Plaintiff is to be molded by the Court to maximize the

financial recovery available to the Plaintiff in light of the caps on certain damages set forth in

applicable federal law; and

G. Plaintiff's claims are to receive trial by jury to the extent allowed by applicable

law. Plaintiff has also endorsed this demand on the caption of this Complaint in accordance with

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Respectfully submitted,

KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, P.C.

By: /s/ David N. Korsen

David N. Korsen, Esq.

3331 Street Rd.

Two Greenwood Square, Suite 128

Bensalem, PA 19020

(215) 639-0801

Dated: March 17, 2020

9

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

KARPF, KARPF, & CERUTTI, P.C.

By: <u>/s/ David N. Korsen</u>
David N. Korsen, Esq.

RULE 4:5-1 CERTIFICATION

- 1. I am licensed to practice law in New Jersey, and I am responsible for the above-captioned matter.
- 2. I am aware of no other matter currently filed or pending in any court in any jurisdiction which may affect the parties or matters described herein.

KARPF, KARPF, & CERUTTI, P.C.

By: /s/ David N. Korsen
David N. Korsen, Esq.

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

David N. Korsen, Esquire, of the law firm of Karpf, & Cerutti, is hereby designated trial counsel.

KARPF, KARPF, & CERUTTI, P.C.

By: /s/ David N. Korsen
David N. Korsen, Esq.